Equal wages for women in unorganized sector

980. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of women workers engaged in the different industries/trade in the unorganized, non-agricultural sector, getting equal wages for equal work;

(b) how many complaints have been received on the issue of non-implementation of Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for strict implementation of this Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The total number of women workers engaged in the different industries/trade etc. in the non-agricultural sector is 35,877,665 as per Census of India 2001.

(b) There are no cases, which have been brought to the notice of the Government regarding discrimination in wages on gender bases. The Office of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) in the Central Sphere and the State Governments in State Sphere conduct inspections to find out the proper implementation of the provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 both in the organized and unorganized sectors.

(c) Whenever violations of the provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 are noticed, action as prescribed under the Act to secure legitimate wages to women workers is taken. In the Central Sphere, Office of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) initiates the action and in the case of industries/establishments where the State Government is appropriate authority, the enforcement of the provisions of the Equal Remuneration is done by the officials of the State Labour Department. Action as prescribed under the Act is applicable to both the organized and the unorganized sectors.